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LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At its informal consultations on Friday, 28 January 1994, the Security Council asked UNPROFOR to provide an urgent report on the letter of the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina dated 28 January 1994 addressed to the President of the Security Council (document S/1994/95). As you may recall, at that time my Representative in the Security Council, Under-Secretary-General Gharekhar, advised the Council that UNPROFOR had not had any new reports of significant military activity in its area of operations, but recalled that in the past UNPROFOR had observed small numbers of armed personnel in Croatian army uniforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and had so informed the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Although UNPROFOR's ability to observe developments throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina is limited, it has provided the following information reflecting, to the best of its ability, its judgement of the involvement of the Croatian Army in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Croatian Army has directly supported the HVO in terms of manpower, equipment and weapons for some time. Initially the level of support was limited to individual and small sub-units, many of them volunteers. As the offensives of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Government forces against the HVO have become successful, the numbers of Croatian soldiers appear to have increased. It is assessed that in total there is the equivalent of three Croatian Brigades of regular Army personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina, approximately 3,000 to 5,000 (this is an estimation, as it is impossible with UNPROFOR's assets to obtain required information for a more accurate account). There have been confirmed reports by UNPROFOR personnel that elements (troops and equipment) from the following Croatian Army (HV) units are indeed present in central and southern Bosnia and Herzegovina:

a. 1 Guards Brigade
b. 2 Guards Brigade
c. 5 Guards Brigade
d. 7 Guards Brigade
e. 114 Brigade
f. 116 Brigade, 4th battalion; and
g. Special military police

Equipment includes heavy artillery and multi-barrelled rocket launchers (MBRL). Most recently an M-77 MBRL entered Bosnia and Herzegovina at Metkovic on 23 January 1994. UNPROFOR is unable to confirm positively any Croatian Army tank activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also in January, the Monitoring and Close Air Support Coordination Centre (MCCC) has confirmed four helicopter flights from Croatia that crossed into Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I trust that this information will be useful to the Security Council in its consideration of the situation brought to its attention by the Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina in document S/1994/95.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI